AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

1. (Original) A method of making a bending wave panel loudspeaker, comprising rigidly coupling a lever to a panel edge or marginal portion such that the lever extends at an angle to the plane of the panel, coupling a bending wave exciter to the lever whereby bending wave energy is coupled to the panel to provide an acoustic output when the exciter is fed with a signal and supporting the panel on a suspension positioned outboard of the lever.

2. (Original) A method according to claim 1, comprising arranging the lever to be in the form of a flange extending along the panel edge or along a marginal portion of the panel.

3. (Original) A method of claim 2, comprising arranging the flange to extend part-way along the panel edge or marginal portion or to be co-extensive with the panel edge.

4. (Original) A method according to any one of claims 1 to 3, comprising arranging levers or flanges on a pair of opposite edges or marginal portions of the panel, and coupling each lever or flange to a vibration exciter whereby the bending wave panel can be operated as a stereo device.

5. (Original) A method according to claim 4, comprising arranging a lever or flange on an adjacent edge or marginal portion of the panel, and coupling a vibration exciter to the lever or flange on the adjacent edge or marginal portion to provide a multiple channel acoustic output.

6. (Currently Amended) A method according to ~~any preceding claim~~ claim 1, comprising driving the lever or flange into a resonance by the associated vibration exciter.

7. (Currently Amended) A method according to ~~any preceding claim~~ claim 6, comprising selecting a distributed mode device as a vibration exciter.

8. (Currently Amended) A method according to ~~any preceding claim~~ any one of claims 1 to 3, comprising positioning the exciter inboard of the lever or flanges.

9. (Currently Amended) A method according to ~~any preceding claim~~ any one of claims 1 to 3, comprising applying force to the lever or flange via the vibration exciter generally in the plane of the panel.

10. (Currently Amended) A method according to any one of ~~claims 1 to 8~~ claims 1 to 3, comprising applying forge to the lever or flange via the exciter generally normally to the plane of the panel.

11. (Original) A method according to claim 10, comprising providing the lever or flange with a return lip at its end remote from the panel, and coupling the vibration exciter to the return lip.

12. (Currently Amended) A method according to ~~any preceding claim~~ any one of claims 1 to 3, wherein the bending wave panel is driven into resonance by the ~~or each~~ exciter.

13. (Original) A method according to claim 12, wherein the resonance is of the distributed mode kind.

14. (Original) A bending wave panel-form loudspeaker having a lever rigidly coupled to a marginal portion or edge of the panel, a vibration exciter coupled to the lever to apply bending wave energy to the panel to produce an acoustic output and a panel suspension positioned outboard of the lever.

15. (Original) A loudspeaker according to claim 14, wherein the lever is in the form of a flange extending along the panel edge or along a marginal portion of the panel.

16. (Original) A loudspeaker according to claim 15, wherein the flange extends part-way along the panel edge or marginal portion or is co-extensive with the panel edge.

17. (Original) A loudspeaker according to any one of claims 14 to 16, wherein levers or flanges are provided on a pair of opposite edges or marginal portions of the panel, each lever or flange being coupled to a vibration exciter whereby the loudspeaker may be operated as a stereo device.

18. (Original) A loudspeaker according to claim 17, wherein a lever or flange is provided on an adjacent edge or marginal portion of the panel, the lever or flange on the adjacent edge or marginal portion being coupled to a vibration exciter to provide a multiple channel acoustic output.

19. (Currently Amended) A loudspeaker according to any one of ~~claims 14 to 18~~ claims 14 to 16, wherein the lever or flange is adapted to be driven into resonance by the associated vibration exciter.

20. (Currently Amended) A loudspeaker according to ~~any one of claims 14 to 19~~ claim 19, wherein the vibration exciter is a distributed mode device.

21. (Currently Amended) A loudspeaker according to any one of ~~claims 14 to 20~~ claims 14 to 16, wherein the exciter is placed inboard of the lever or flange.

22. (Currently Amended) A loudspeaker according to any one of ~~claims 14 to 21~~ claims 14 to 16, wherein the vibration exciter is adapted to apply force to the lever or flange generally normal to the plane thereof.

23. (Currently Amended) A loudspeaker according to any one of ~~claims 14 to 21~~ claims 14 to 16, wherein the vibration exciter is adapted to apply force to the lever or flange generally in the plane of the panel.

24. (Original) A loudspeaker according to claim 23, wherein the lever or flange comprises a return lip at its end and remote from the panel, and wherein the vibration exciter is coupled to the return lip.

25. (Currently Amended) A loudspeaker according to any one of ~~claims 14 to 24~~ claims 14 to 16, wherein the bending wave panel is ~~adapted to~~ adapted to be resonant to produce an acoustic output.

26. (Original) A loudspeaker according to claim 25, wherein the bending wave panel is of the distributed mode kind.

27. (Currently Amended) A small electronic device having a display screen, and a transparent protective cover over the display screen, wherein the transparent protective cover is a loudspeaker as claimed in any one of ~~claims 14 to 26~~ claims 14 to 16.

28. (Original) A small electronic device according to claim 27, wherein the device is a mobile telephone, PDA or the like.